

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MARSHALL COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER REPORT  
H1N1 FLU-RELATED DEATH**

Marshall County health Officer today reported a death related to the 2009 H1N1 influenza A virus. The state and local health departments will not be releasing any other information about the individual for confidentiality reasons.

“My heart goes out to the family,” said Dr. Bryon Holm, Marshall County Health Officer “It is a sad reality that H1N1 flu, just like any influenza, has the potential to cause severe illness and even death.”

“I understand that news of deaths from H1N1 flu-related complications is going to make the public even more anxious to get the H1N1 flu vaccine, and we do wish we had enough of the vaccine for everyone right now,” Holm said. “I know it is hard, but we are asking the public to be patient as we all eagerly await more H1N1 flu vaccine to be distributed to the county”.

The Marshall County Health Department has been distributing the H1N1 vaccine to providers as it comes in and now that supplies are beginning to become larger school based clinics are being set up. School based clinics are designed to reach the largest target group – our children. By protecting our children the amount of H1N1 circulating in our communities will be reduced which will reduce everyone’s chances of exposure to the H1N1 virus.

Vaccine will still be distributed to providers for other target groups and we ask that the school clinics be for children only.

Holm reminds the public one thing everyone can do to prevent the spread of influenza is to practice the three Cs:

- Clean – properly wash your hands frequently
- Cover – cover your cough and sneeze
- Contain – contain your germs by staying home if you are sick

The target groups for the 2009 H1N1 vaccine include the following:

- Pregnant women,
- Individuals aged six months to 24 years,
- Persons living with or caring for infants younger than six months,
- Health care workers and emergency medical services workers, and
- Persons aged 25 to 64 years with medical conditions that make them more susceptible to flu-related complications.

For more information regarding the 2009 H1N1 influenza: call 211. Visit [www.in.gov/flu](http://www.in.gov/flu). The Indiana State Department of Health will also be offering a toll-free hotline for the public to call for information on the H1N1 flu and its vaccine at: **1-877-826-0011** or TTY 1-888-561-0044. It will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Monday-Friday.